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NOAA'S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SELECTS NEW LEADER OF LOS ANGELES WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

NOAA's National Weather Service has named Mark Jackson to head the Los Angeles Weather Forecast Office in Oxnard, Calif. Jackson began his new duties as meteorologist-in-charge on August 8, 2005.

"A meteorologist-in-charge is the front line officer carrying out the National Weather Service's mission of serving the American public by helping protect lives and property," said retired Brig. Gen. David L. Johnson, U.S. Air Force (Ret.), director of NOAA's National Weather Service. "We are honored to have Mark Jackson serving in this important role."

Jackson's meteorology career began in 1987 at NOAA's Forecast Systems Laboratory in Boulder, Colo., where he was involved in multiple operational forecast research projects. He started his National Weather Service career in June 1995 as a science and operations officer at the Brownsville, Texas, Weather Forecast Office and moved to Honolulu in October 1998, where he served as regional scientist for the NWS Pacific Region Headquarters. There he managed the region's Warning Coordination Meteorologist program, served as the regional aviation meteorologist, directed the regional marine program, and led regional training and technology transfer efforts. Since September 2001, Jackson had been the science and operations officer for the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Salt Lake City.

"Mark Jackson brings a wealth of experience to Los Angeles," said Vickie Nadolski, director of the National Weather Service Western Region in Salt Lake City. "Mark's leadership and experience with the coastal and ocean weather of the Gulf coast and Pacific will be a tremendous asset to the staff and the community. He will continue to promote excellent coordination with local governments and the business community, as well as support the strong public outreach of the Los Angeles forecast office. His experience, enthusiasm and innovative spirit will be definite assets to residents of Los Angeles and surrounding areas."

Jackson earned a bachelor's degree in meteorology from the University of Nebraska in 1984 and a master's degree in meteorology from the University of Oklahoma in 1987.

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"I am honored to be selected as the new Los Angeles meteorologist in charge," Jackson said. "Residents and visitors to north Los Angeles and the important agricultural and coastal regions of California depend on timely, accurate weather forecasts and warnings for their businesses and their livelihoods. Whether providing weather information for those taking to the highways, skies or Pacific Ocean, I am excited about being part of the weather information process, and informing everyone in this area of the latest weather trends and warnings. I look forward to building on a proud tradition of providing excellent service to our customers and the community."

NOAA's National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. NOAA's National Weather Service operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast systems in the world, helping to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with federal partners and nearly 60 countries to develop a global earth observation network that is as integrated as the planet it observes.

Note: Media interested in scheduling interviews with Mark Jackson may contact the Los Angeles weather forecast office by calling (805) 988-6643 or (805) 988-6615.

On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA's National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov>

National Weather Service in Los Angeles: <http://www.nwsla.noaa.gov>